

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 9th October, 2001

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Member:-
Uhuru Kenyatta

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.592

DEVELOPMENT OF DUTY-FREE PORT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is Mr. Kariuki not here? We will leave his Question until the end. Let us move to the next Question.

Question No.443

STD FACILITY FOR THARAKA

Mr. Mwenda asked the Minister for Transport and Communications when will Tharaka be supplied with a Subscriber Trunk Dialling facility to ease telephone communication problems in the region.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Tharaka has been included in the 2000/2005 Telkom Kenya Development Programme. Currently, Tharaka District is served by three manual exchanges at Marimanti, Tunyai and Ciakariga. There is congestion in the three exchanges due to one trunk line serving each of the exchanges and customers have to wait for long before they are connected. Telkom Kenya has planned to increase the trunk lines to four in each exchange in the short-run, and this will ease the congestion. This will be an interim solution and will be provided within the next four months.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members! A Member's Question is being answered and Members of his party are the ones who are making the loudest noise. Hon. Chief Whip, whip them!

Proceed!

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the short-term measures will be implemented within the next four months. The district headquarters exchange will be automated in the next financial year 2002/2003, while the remaining exchanges will be automated in the year 2003/2004. The minimum capacity of the exchange available is 300 lines and a survey is due to be conducted, and this will be done before the end of this year to further determine the potential customers in each of the exchanges. The hon. Member for Tharaka should encourage his constituents to apply for the services, so as to justify the installation of the automatic exchanges in the area when they are installed.

Mr. Mwenda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while thanking the Assistant Minister for the answer, Tharaka has a

population of over 200,000 people. The Assistant Minister has admitted that there are only three lines serving a population of over 200,000 people. Recently, the District Commissioner was given an out-of-station automated line. Why can the Assistant Minister not consider making more STD lines available for use by the businessmen and other people in Tharaka immediately?

Mr. Keah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am aware of the fact that the District Commissioner was given a direct line and this was done at a cost of Kshs354,000, which the District Commissioner paid. This line has been connected from Meru and anyone who has got that kind of money to get a line all the way from Meru to their houses or premises can be connected.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) is not only a problem in Tharaka but in the whole country. What is the Ministry doing to make sure that it [Mr. Ndicho] upgrades the STD facilities in all areas? In a place like Thika, the STD facility is such a big problem that after 9.00 a.m, it is very difficult for people to call out of---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Ask your supplementary question which you have already done. Proceed, Mr. Assistant Minister!

Mr. Keah: Sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was still trying to get the question because there is a lot of loud consultation. May he kindly repeat the question?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying that the issue of telephone facilities in this country is such a big problem that all STDs in virtually all towns in this country are not functional because they are all jammed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Ask your question!

Mr. Ndicho: That is what I am doing!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question!

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I ask Question No.515, though I have not been supplied with an answer.

Question No.515

DESTRUCTION OF MALAVA FOREST

Mr. Shitanda asked the Minister for Natural Resources:-

- (a) whether he is aware that there is massive destruction of Malava Forest going on;
- (b) whether he is further aware that the destruction is being carried out by his officers in collusion with saw millers; and,
- (c) what action he is taking to stop the wanton destruction of this forest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is anyone here from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources? We will leave this Question until the end. Let us move to the next Question by Mr. Wambua!

Question No.529

REHABILITATION OF MBEMBANI WATER PROJECT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is Mr. Wambua not here? We will leave his Question until the end. Let us move to the next Question by Mr. Kalulu!

Question No.421

TARMACKING OF MASII-TAWA ROAD

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is Mr. Kalulu not here? We will leave his Question until the end. Let us move to the next Question.

Question No.533

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
WORLD BANK/USAID LOANS

Mr. Muchiri asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) how many houses were developed at Dandora, Kayole, Mathare North, New Mathare, Huruma and Umoja 1 and 2 through the World Bank and USAID loans;
- (b) what were the effective dates of the payment of the loan per estate by the loanees and what was the repayment period; and,
- (c) why Nairobi City Council has failed to maintain the roads, streets and footpaths within those estates.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Hashim): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) A total of 20,383 houses were developed at Dandora, Kayole, Mathare North, New Mathare, Huruma and Umoja 1 and 2 through the World Bank and USAID loans as per the attached list.
- (b) Houses were completed also, as per the attached list.
- (c) The Nairobi City Council has not adequately maintained the roads, streets and footpaths within the aforementioned estates because of inadequate funds. However, as from August 1999, substantial works have been carried out in Dandora, Umoja and Kayole estates.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Muchiri: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I could not hear the Assistant Minister's reply to my Question because hon. Members are consulting too loudly. Could you ask them to consult in low tones?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Members, I do not have to repeat the fact that you are in this House to transact parliamentary business. Questions are part of that business. So, do give other hon. Members an opportunity to be heard when they ask Questions and when they are replied to. For those who wish to consult loudly, Kamukunji Ground is available.

Proceed, Mr. Muchiri!

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister said that Nairobi City Council has not been able to maintain roads and street lights in the estates. He also said that the council has not been able to construct new houses since 1982. Could he explain how the Nairobi City Council intends to maintain street lights and roads in the estates and how it intends to build other houses so that Nairobi residents can live in decent houses rather in the shanties?

Mr. Hashim: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Nairobi City Council is looking for funds so that we can undertake some development projects in the City. However, as I said, a number of projects have been implemented since 1999.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the houses the Assistant Minister has talked about were developed for tenants who are required to pay for the value of those houses and that of the services provided by the council in terms of roads and street lighting. Now that there are neither street lights nor roads, could the council reduce the repayment rates?

Mr. Hashim: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of reducing the repayments does not arise since an agreement exists between the tenants and the Nairobi City Council.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, I am afraid that the question of reduction does arise because the agreements entered into include the provision of roads and street lighting. Now that these services are no longer there, how can you continue to charge them on the basis of agreements which you did not fulfil?

Mr. Hashim: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the purchase of a property and the provision of services to that property are two different issues. The Ministry is determined to provide services to these estates. However, the question of reducing the price of the houses should not arise.

Mr. N. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the Assistant Minister has rightly stated, the Government is unable to provide these services. Could he tell us the general policy regarding what the Government intends to do with the very high population in Nairobi in the absence of the construction of low-cost houses, and particularly regarding the issue of Arab contractors, which has been deliberated upon by the Minister and the Egyptian Ambassador to Kenya?

Mr. Hashim: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, plans to expand those projects are under way. However, as of now, I cannot give an adequate reply regarding the matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Could you ask the last question, Mr. Muchiri?

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when these estates were constructed, there were public utility plots

within them. Now that the Nairobi City Council has already allocated the plots meant for public utility, what action is the Assistant Minister going to take to ensure that there are plots for libraries, social halls and other community amenities?

Mr. Hashim: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, any allocation of plots that may have been irregularly effected will be revoked.

Question No.568

LEASING OF GUSII COUNCIL GRADER

Mr. Angwenyi asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the Gusii County Council grader was leased to a private person for two years and that it was returned to the council in unserviceable condition;
- (b) what steps he is taking to ensure that the proceeds for the use of the grader by the private person for two years are surrendered to the council; and,
- (c) whether he could order that the grader be repaired immediately so that it can be used for the road projects by the council.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Hashim): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that the Gusii County Council grader was leased to a private person for two years. However, I am aware that the grader, Registration NO. KTC 151, was hired by a private construction company on an hourly basis as from February 24th, 1999, to January, 2000.

(b) A total of Kshs530,000 was paid to the council as the proceeds for the hire.

(c) The council has set aside Kshs1 million to repair the grader.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, you have not answered part (c) of the Question.

Mr. Hashim: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on part (c) of the Question, I said that Kshs1 million has been set aside for the repair of the grader.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the grader was leased to the company in question. By the way, legally, a company is a person. The Assistant Minister does not seem to know that. Be that as it may, this grader was leased out to the company in question in 1998. To date, the grader has not done a single inch of road within Gusii County Council because when it was returned to the council, it was unserviceable. Could the Assistant Minister ensure that the company to which the grader was leased out repairs it so that it can be available for work within the county council?

Mr. Hashim: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a total of Kshs530,000 has already been paid. Also, the county council has set aside Kshs1 million for the repair of the grader.

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is misleading this House. Local authorities have no working graders. The Nairobi City Council, for example, has a single working grader. Even that one, whenever it is repaired, works for only one day and breaks down again. So, since we have only one working grader in Nairobi, it is quite clear that other local authorities have no graders that are working. Could the Assistant Minister tell the House the steps he intends to take to get local authorities' graders working? How many graders does the Nairobi City Council have? There are eight constituencies in Nairobi.

Mr. Hashim: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will ensure that all the graders in Nairobi are repaired as soon as possible.

Mr. Mwenda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is an aspect of the Question the Assistant Minister is deliberately avoiding to reply to. The Questioner says that the grader was returned in unserviceable condition. It must have been one of the terms and conditions of the agreement between the council and the company that the grader was to be returned in a serviceable condition. The Assistant Minister says that Kshs1 million has been set aside for the repair of the grader. This means that the grader was returned to the council while in a very bad condition. What is the Government doing to ensure that the company repairs the grader so that the council does not lose its money unnecessarily?

Mr. Hashim: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, the contract was on an hourly basis, and the company has paid Kshs530,000 to the county council. The council has set aside Kshs1 million from the Local Authorities Transfer Fund (LATF) for the repair of the grader. There was no agreement to the effect that the company should repair the grader. The company was supposed to pay the proceeds of the hire, which it did.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The last one, Mr. Angwenyi!

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not seen any Government in the world which lets out its

assets to individuals only for it to ask the taxpayers to repair them once they are cannibalised. Kisii District is very large. It also receives a lot of rainfall. So, we need to maintain our roads all the time. That is why the county council bought the grader. Could the Assistant Minister table the contract document in which it has been stated that the contractor could take away the grader and return it to the county council in a cannibalised state for the Government to repair it? Secondly---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Angwenyi, ask one question at a time!

Mr. Hashim: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will table the agreement between the county council and the company.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When will you table the agreement? Will it be on Thursday?

Mr. Hashim: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Question No.474

LAND ACQUISITION FOR SABA SABA RAILWAY STATION

Mr. P.K. Mwangi asked the Minister for Lands and Settlement:-

(a) whether he could explain how Kenya Railways acquired title deed No.LOC.17 Saba Saba/1357, measuring 18.6 acres for the construction of Saba Saba Railway Station; and,

(b) when he will compensate the people whose land was taken away for the project.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is anyone here from the Ministry of Lands and Settlement? We will come back to this Question later.

Question No.592

DEVELOPMENT OF DUTY-FREE PORT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is Mr. Kariuki still not here? The Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Question No.515

DESTRUCTION OF MALAVA FOREST

Mr. Shitanda asked the Minister for Environment:-

(a) whether he is aware that there is massive destruction of Malava forest going on;

(b) whether he is further aware that the destruction is being carried out by his officers in collusion with saw millers; and,

(c) what action he is taking to stop the wanton destruction of this forest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is anyone here from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources? I will defer the Question to Thursday, afternoon.

(Question deferred)

Question No.529

REHABILITATION OF MBEMBANI
WATER PROJECT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Wambua is still not here? The Question is dropped!

(Question dropped)

Question No.421

TARMACKING OF MASII-TAWA ROAD

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am informed that Mr. Kalulu was here, but he had to rush back to Machakos because there has occurred a serious road accident in his constituency. So, I will defer that Question to Thursday, afternoon.

(Question deferred)

Question No.474

LAND ACQUISITION FOR SABA SABA
RAILWAY STATION

Mr. P.K. Mwangi asked the Minister for Lands and Settlement:-

(a) whether he could explain how Kenya Railways acquired title deed No.LOC.17 Saba Saba/1357, measuring 18.6 acres for the construction of Saba Saba Railway Station; and,

(b) when he will compensate the people whose land was taken away for the project.

The Minister for Lands and Settlement Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to apologise for having been late for a few minutes and missing to answer the Question when it was called out the first time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The land LR.No.LOC.17 Saba Saba/1357, measuring 18.6 acres, is registered in favour of Trustland Board; that is Murang'a County Council, which is a public body.

(b) The registration was a first registration after an adjudication process. Therefore, the land cannot have been taken away from people and the issue of compensation, thus, does not arise.

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, although I respect the hon. Minister, it is quite unfortunate that he has been misled by his officers. The construction of the railway line and the adjudication process found us in that place. I am trying to say that the land was registered--

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do not try to say it; try to ask!

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that the land was registered in favour of Murang'a County Council, but reserved for the construction of the Saba Saba railway station. Could the Minister confirm or deny that before adjudication was done for the people of Maragwa Constituency, Kamahuha Location, this land was reserved for the construction of the Saba Saba Railway Station?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to confirm that the hon. Member is correct and I have no problem with that. All I am saying is that the adjudication process set aside this portion for the county council. The county council proceeded to give the right of use of that piece of land to the Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC). So, that is why I have said that the piece of land is used by the KRC, and if anybody has been on it, this is illegal. This piece of land was owned by the county council and the council gave it to the KRC.

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could we get guidelines from the Minister on why the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) compensates anybody on whose land it enters and why the Kenya Railways Corporation does not do the same? Could the Minister give us the difference between the two bodies if Maragwa County Council cannot be compensated by the KRC?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a general rule, KPLC passes its cables over private individuals' pieces of land and that is why individuals insist on being paid. In this case, we are dealing with a county council, a public institution itself, authorising KRC to use the facility. The two cases are not similar. In one case, a private piece of land is involved, and in the case of the Maragwa County Council, we are dealing with a public piece of land.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister inform this House, first, when this piece of land was allocated to the KRC, and [Mr. Michuki] secondly, when the actual railway station will be built?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this plot was first registered in favour of Murang'a County Council on 1st June, 1961.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Michuki's question was, in fact, whether the plot will be used for the purpose for which it was given.

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my understanding that the plot has already been used by the KRC. It was allocated for that use.

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to say that KRC is using

the piece of land, when, in fact, there is no railway station at Saba Saba?

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said that it is my understanding that, that piece of land was allocated for use by the KRC, and KRC is the "owner" of that plot for its use.

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the Minister's information, I was born on that plot.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You do not look like you were born in 1961!

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 25 families cannot be living as squatters in this country just because of this adjudication process. We are now demanding the resettling of these people on this piece of land. If this will not be done, we will demand it by force.

Mr. J. Nyagah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to hear that the hon. Member was born a squatter, but I repeat that the land belongs to Murang'a County Council. If the hon. Member could persuade Murang'a County Council to take a portion of that piece of land from the KRC and give it to the squatters, I will be very happy that I will have settled some people.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

ATTACK ON MR. MAINA MURIOGA

(Eng. Toro) to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President-

(a) Is the Minister aware that Mr. Paul Maina Murioga of Kariua Sub-location in Ruchu Location of Kandara Division was attacked and seriously injured on 7th February, 1999, by Mr. Peter Muigai Kairu, and the matter reported at Gacharage Police Base?

(b) Is he further aware that as a result of the attack, Mr. Maina is now disabled as he lost one leg?

(c) Is he further aware that the victim, Mr. Maina, was chased away from his shamba by the assailant, Mr. Muigai, and that he now lives at Kamahuha Sub-location in Maragwa Division as a squatter?

(d) What action is he taking to resolve the dispute between the two and also have Mr. Kairu charged with assault?

Mr. Murathe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Eng. Toro is on official parliamentary business in Berlin.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When will he be back?

Mr. Murathe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he will be back next week.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, I will defer this Question to Wednesday, next week.

(Question deferred)

RENT COLLECTION FROM RESIDENTIAL ESTATES

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Roads and Public Works the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is he aware of the Ministerial Statement in Parliament on 22nd April, 1998, giving assurance that tenants of Madaraka and other residential estates would not be evicted, harassed or intimidated?

(b) How much money does the Nairobi City Council and other local authorities owe the National Housing Corporation in respect of Madaraka, Kariakor and other residential estates?

(c) How much money has the National Housing Corporation collected from Madaraka and other residential estates in compliance with provisions and obligations of Sections 11(2), 12(1)(2) and 19 of the Housing Act, Cap.117?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there anybody here from the Ministry of Roads and Public Works?

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Last week, the Chair was very harsh with Ministers who absent themselves from this House and, therefore, they do not to answer Questions. Now that the Deputy Leader of Government Business is here, why can the Chair not express its disgust, so that he whips those Ministers in order for them to be here on time to answer Questions?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There are two things here, Mr. Ndicho! First of all, that is not a point of order. Secondly, I think I have informed you many times that when I will need your assistance, I will ask for it. For now, I do not need it. Could we hear from Mr. Anyona!

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this a very important Question because the tenants of, at least, Madaraka Estate are being harassed by National Housing Corporation (NHC). They are being forced to sign illegal tenancy agreements with the NHC. I bet I have received the written reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I met the Minister along the corridor and I drew his attention to some of the things that he has stated in his reply, and he was doubting whether he had been given the right answer. I believe he must have gone back to ask his officers to give him more information. But he has been here and I did speak to him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What do you have to say, Mr. Mudavadi?

The Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can only apologise on behalf of the Minister because I had not communicated with him. But, indeed, I also saw him. So, I would request that the Question be deferred to a later date so that he can come with a comprehensive answer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, Mr. Anyona, the best I can do, under the circumstances, is to defer the Question to Thursday afternoon.

(Mr. W.C. Morogo walked into the Chamber)

An hon. Member: The Minister is here! He can now go ahead and answer the Question!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Minister for Roads and Public Works, there is a Question by Private Notice standing against your name and it should be answered now!

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry for delaying to come to the House to answer this Question. I now beg to reply.

(a) I am aware of a Ministerial Statement issued on 23rd April, 1998, assuring the tenants of the two estates that they would not be disturbed until such time that the court case between the City Council and the NHC will have been concluded.

(b) The Nairobi City Council and other local authorities owe the National Housing Corporation rent arrears in respect of Madaraka, Kariakor and other residential estates, to the tune of Kshs2,000,000,000 and Kshs6,315,762, as arrears of loans charged on the amount, as at 30th September, 2001.

The National Housing Corporation has collected Kshs127,919,956 from Madaraka and Kariakor Estates of Nairobi since May, 1998.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the purposes of record, the statement was sought on the 22nd April, and it was given on the 23rd April. In his reply to part "a" of the Question, the Minister says that the *status quo* would remain until the court case has been concluded? Could the Minister now tell this House whether the court case was concluded and when it was concluded? If it has not been concluded, why not?

Mr. W.C. Morogo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there have been several court cases, but this particular case was concluded in December, 1998.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very sympathetic with the Minister. I believe he is an honest Minister, but he is working with a bunch of civil servants who are deceitful, arrogant and mischievous. There was no case! The order was obtained fraudulently.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my understanding was that a substantive case would be filed! No case was filed and after two years, that order lapsed! So, if the Minister wants to insist - I would advise him not to insist because I am a resident of Madaraka Estate and I know this matter inside-out - would he then produce evidence that there was a case which was concluded in 1998, as he is saying? There was no such case!

Mr. W.C. Morogo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a copy of the court ruling with me here and I would like to table it.

*(Mr. W.C. Morogo laid the document
on the Table)*

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There are two things in law! There is a court order which is an injunction, a temporary order. That is what the NHC obtained fraudulently and I can give details on that. An injunction to collect rent from the tenants of Madaraka Estate was filed, subject to filing of a substantive case, which would then be heard in court.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my knowledge about this matter is that, that case was never filed. So, if the Minister is tabling the injunction order that allowed them to collect rent, that is not the case. All we want to know is: If the case was filed, was it concluded? If it was concluded, what was the result?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Minister!

*(Mr. Deputy Speaker consulted
with the Clerk)*

Okay, proceed, Mr. Minister!

Mr. W.C. Morogo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Ministerial Statement was sought, there was a court injunction and the NHC had also filed a case between itself and the City Council of Nairobi, because the City Council had failed to remit rent collected from the estates in question to the NHC. So, the corporation was seeking to be allowed to collect rent directly from the tenants.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was during the period when there was some misunderstanding that the Minister ruled that the *status quo* would remain because that case was still pending before court. But after the case had been concluded, the NHC went ahead and was given an okay to collect rents from the tenants.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the residents of Madaraka, Kariakor Estates and the rest of the residential estates who lived in the City Council houses were not party to the civil suit in the High Court. Under what authority is the NHC collecting rent from the tenants, who were never named in the civil suit, other than harassing the tenants?

Mr. W.C. Morogo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the court gave the NHC power to collect rent because the City Council of Nairobi had been collecting rent and not remitting it to the NHC.

Mr. Muite: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. This is a very serious matter because the document which the Minister has laid on the Table of the House is an interim order, which Mr. Anyona has said was to enable a case to be filed in court. Is the Chair satisfied that the Minister has answered this Question in a satisfactory manner? Should he not be given time to go and investigate the matter so that he can bring the claim which was filed, if it was filed; bring a defence, if there was one, and the judgement, if there was one? This will enable the House to be appraised of the facts about this matter. This is because there is greater dichotomy between what the Minister has said and what Mr. Anyona has said. This House is entitled to have the facts established so that we can be guided accordingly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Minister, could you respond to that?

Mr. W.C. Morogo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought he had put the question to you; whether you are satisfied or not.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, my understanding of the position - I not being a lawyer - is that, that only served as an interim measure, and that there will be a substantive case following that injunction. The words in that order say "permanent injunction" but I think it really means "given time not to be interfered with" so that he can prepare your case. Your answer stated that there was a case which was determined on December, 1998. We are now saying that if there was a case, indeed, and it was concluded in December, 1998, produce the evidence.

Mr. W.C. Morogo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps I will organise myself and bring to the House proper facts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable thing I will do is to defer this Question to Wednesday, next week.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Question has been deferred, or do you not want it to be deferred?

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No! Do you want the Question to be deferred or not?

Mr. Anyona: There is an issue I want to raise---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You did ask the Minister to reply to your Question. So, raise that issue as a supplementary question when the Question comes up next week.

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have deferred the Question. So, there is no issue before us.

COMPLETION OF MUKURWEINI
HOSPITAL MORTUARY

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Medical Services the following Question

by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that in-patients are forced to share wards with bodies in Mukurweini Sub-district Hospital?

(b) When is the stalled mortuary and theatre going to be completed.

The Minister for Medical Services (Mr. Mohamed): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that in-patients are forced to share beds with bodies in Mukurweini Sub-district Hospital.

(b) The Ministry has set aside Kshs918,000 this financial year to begin the process of completion of the stalled project at Mukurweini Sub-district Hospital. It will continue to do so subject to budgetary allocation until the mortuary and theatre of this sub-district hospital are completed.

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very sad case because the hospital was officially opened by the President of this country on 8th February, 1997. On the same date, it was indicated

[Mr. Mutahi]

that there cannot exist a sub-district hospital or a hospital without a mortuary. This sub-district hospital has a capacity of 72 beds, which are always occupied. If it is a hospital with that occupation, definitely we expect some patients to die. I do not know what the Minister means when he says that there are no corpses sharing wards with in-patients.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell this House what happens to the bodies in Mukurweini Sub-district Hospital since there is no mortuary or building to keep them?

Mr. Mohamed: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what happens to the bodies in Mukurweini Sub-district Hospital, since there is no mortuary, is that they are kept in a private room before they are transported to Nyeri Provincial General Hospital and Karatina District Hospital.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Kiunjuri: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. It should be remembered that one day, the Minister, the Chair and I will die. There are very important people called "mortuary attendants". Almost in all Government hospitals, they are casual labourers, and are given a raw deal.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell this House the immediate action he will take to ensure that these people are employed permanently and paid decent salaries?

Mr. Mohamed: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was loud consultation and I did not get the question the hon. Member asked.

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will be a Minister very soon---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Ask your question!

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I started by reminding---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Ask your question!

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question was, although I started by reminding him that---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Mutahi, ask your last question!

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very urgent matter because if a mortuary breaks down in any hospital, everybody is mobilised to go and repair it. I am talking about four years that we have passed Budgets in this House. We have been told of Kshs918,000 that has been passed by this House this financial year. We are also told---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Ask your question!

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Are we in order to discuss something that may not have happened? Are we talking about the mortuary and the theatre stalling? Does a mortuary and a theatre stall, or it is the construction?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I believe every hon. Member here understood perfectly the question the hon. Member asked. Everybody here knows that mortuaries do not stall, but their construction does. So, proceed, Mr. Mutahi!

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister, because this is a very urgent matter, tell us when this mortuary will be constructed? The buildings are there but what we require is the equipment. He has raised Kshs918,000 and we have raised Kshs0.5 million. When will the mortuary be constructed?

Mr. Mohamed: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this mortuary is almost 80 per cent complete, and it requires Kshs1,929,612. The Ministry has set aside in this financial year Kshs918,000 for the completion of the hospital. We have already issued Authority to Incur Expenditure (AIE) of Kshs459,000 and the remaining amount of money will be released to the hospital later on. I would like to inform this House that we will set aside some money in the next financial year and the mortuary will be completed.

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about a mortuary, and he is talking about next year, and yet the local people have raised the difference. The Government should give Mukurweini Sub-district Hospital the Kshs918,000 because we have raised the difference.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! The Minister merely stated that although Kshs918,000 was allocated, he is only able to give half that figure because it is already given on the Vote on Account, so that come when we have finished discussion of all the Supply Votes, he will then have access to that other half. If you have raised the half, then what he gives you now is enough to complete the project. You should be asking him when you are going to get this money so that you can add it to yours and complete the project.

Dr. Ochuodho: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I am dealing with Mr. Mutahi.

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could he tell us when he will give us the difference so that the construction can take place?

Mr. Mohammed: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will give the difference as soon as this Kshs459,000 is utilised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Minister! When will you release this money that you are issuing an AIE for?

Mr. Mohammed: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already released Kshs459,000 and the other half will be issued within this financial year.

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, are you satisfied with this reply? If not, could you then order the Minister to bring an appropriate answer?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is no reason to defer this Question. All that we want from the Minister---

Mr. Maitha: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What do you think we are on now? Mr. Maitha, if you listened, you would stop interrupting us even when we are on a point of order.

Mr. Minister, when will you release that AIE?

Mr. Mohammed: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I released the Kshs459,000 on 8th August. The other half will be released later in the year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Order!

POINTS OF ORDER

QUOTA SYSTEM OF ADMISSION INTO NATIONAL SCHOOLS

Mr. Muite: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order to request for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Education, to clarify the controversy currently going on, on the ministerial imposition of the quota system of the children qualifying from private schools. As you are aware, any matter relating to education tends to be very controversial. It is also a matter that is very close to the hearts of the students and the parents. We would like a Ministerial Statement regarding that controversy.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

KILLINGS IN THIKA POLICE CELLS

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Samoei): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 2nd October, 2001, Mr. Ndicho, the Member of Parliament for Juja, rose on a point of order to request for a Ministerial Statement with regard to the circumstances under which six suspects were found dead in a police cell in Thika Police Station on the morning of 1st October, 2001. In this connection, I wish to state as follows:-

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I will be very brief on this matter as the same is a subject of a case pending before a court of law. I do not wish to delve into the matters which are in the province of the Judiciary.

On the morning of 1st October, 2001, police officers on duty discovered six dead suspects in Cell No.2 of Thika Police Station. On making initial inquiries, they were informed that a fight had broken out in the cell the previous night between six Kamiti remand suspects who had been transferred to Thika Police Station, and other cell

mates. It is suspected that bottles and fists were used in this fight. The following suspects were found dead: Francis Njuguna Mwandiko, Simon Muturi Njogu, Peter Musoti, Joseph Njoroge, Paul Irinya Katengu and Thomas Kamau. On 3rd October, 2001, three suspects who were in Cell No.2 on the fateful night, namely: John Mwangi, Fredrick Mucheru and Robert Mwanja were charged before a Nairobi court with the murder of the six suspects. In the same court, six policemen including two inspectors and four constables, were charged for failing to make routine visits to the cells as required, to ensure the safety and security of suspects.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the two cases are still pending before court and I believe that in the interest of justice, we should allow the court to do its work. In the meantime, I have given very firm instructions to police officers to ensure the safety of all suspects in their custody.

POINT OF ORDER

CONFUSION IN THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last week I did seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Local Government on the situation in local authorities across the country. There was an undertaking that, that statement would be issued today. In spite of the time, I would still like the Minister to make that statement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, I do know that you have quite a few burning issues that you wanted to seek Ministerial Statements on, but our time does not allow us. With regard to the Ministerial Statement that has been read by Mr. Samoei, I will give Mr. Ndicho an opportunity on Thursday to raise any point of clarification that he may have. For the time being, I am afraid I cannot allow any more statements or points of order because we are already at 3.30 p.m. So, we proceed to the next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Order for Committee read being 14th allotted Day)

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR
Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy

(The Minister for Energy on 4.10.2001)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 4.10.2001)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Omingo was on the Floor! He is not there, so, I will give it to Mr. ole Ntimama.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. ole Ntimama): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the outset, I want to say that I support the Vote of the Ministry of Energy which was presented very ably by Mr. Raila. But I want to say quite briefly that we have had many propositions and survey papers which state that this country will be industrialised by the year 2020. This is very interesting because unless there is sufficient supply of power in this country, I cannot see any industrialization taking place. I know that there are many other factors that count, like investment, getting money from foreign countries to this country, availability of land to build industries, water and supply of labour, but the most important thing is whether or not there is power in some of these areas. It looks like that power has not been distributed equitably in this country. Although there are many areas where we have got natural resources with power, we could develop and stimulate the economy of this country which seems to be declining. It is galloping towards recession. I would have wanted the Minister, when he comes to reply, to tell us how he will make sure that he exploits some other sources of energy in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many ways of generating electric power in this country. For example, wind is a very important way of generating power. Even the developed countries use wind to generate electric power. We do not seem to be moving in that direction. We do not seem to be doing anything about it. There is also solar power. We do not seem to be doing anything in that direction. There are many countries which are using solar power in all their industrial areas and housing estates. If we used it, we could save a lot of power. Even when our dams dry up and there is no sufficient water, we could still be lighting our own industrial areas, housing estates and many other

areas that do not require too much power. It is very important that the very energetic Minister for Energy tells us how he looks into the future of power generation in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true to say that there are some areas which need equitable supply of electricity just like other resources. For example, Mau Narok Town in my constituency, where a lot of wheat and barley are grown, needs electricity. In that town, there are many well-developed farms where we produce vegetables and potatoes, among other crops. There is no short-cut to industrialization. Unless we start developing our agro-industry, we cannot be industrialised by the year 2020. The only way to develop this agro-industry is by having enough supply of electricity in some of these areas.

In Mau Narok, there is a lot of wastage of wheat, barley, vegetables and potatoes, among other crops. If we had electricity, we could mix barley and maize to produce livestock feed. Livestock feed is very expensive and there is a shortage of it in this country. It is also a minus in our agriculture development. We could also grow potatoes to prepare chips in hotels, process vegetables and do all sort of other things, if we had electric power. As a result, we could definitely develop the economy of this country. As I said, we could stimulate our economy to prevent it from any further decline. If we could put some of the wind and solar power into the national grid and have electricity installed in Mau Narok, Ainabelbel and Leng'etea trading centres, we could probably be able to do a lot of things in this country because that area is rich in farm produce. We actually produce a lot of wheat for this country. In fact, Narok District is the biggest wheat producer in the country, more than Uasin Gishu District. But the sad thing is that we do not have good roads and electric power. There is a saying in our language, that "water is life". It is definitely life. Equally, electric power is development. Without electric power, there is no development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I end my short speech, I want to thank the Minister for having made a statement just the other day, that disputes which developed at Olkaria Geothermal Power Plant could be settled amicably between the Maasai employees, KenGen and their agents. It is very helpful to think that this thing would be decided and discussed amicably. But I was rather taken aback when the Minister said that those young Maasai morans were incited. It is not true. We are normally loyal people. We are normally law-abiding citizens of this country. We could even be called docile in some of these things, but the truth of the matter is this: These people were discriminated against by some perpetrators. They were locked out of their jobs, so that hundreds of other people could be ferried into this area and the Maasai employees would be sacked in the pretext that they were casual labourers. These people had contracts and they were to be employed permanently in the plant. You can guess, it was the influential and powerful people who were bringing those other people to be employed and the poor and voiceless Maasai were to be sacked despite the fact that this plant is in their own area. This is not fair. We must understand now that everybody has got their own basic rights of freedom and liberty. These people were expressing their own constitutional right to assemble and petition the authority for discrimination and air their grievances. I hope that some of these things will be taken care of. This is because you do not need a diploma or a degree to be employed as a gatekeeper, shamba boy, or a watchman to watch over some of these rich people when they are sleeping. So, this is probably what those young Maasais were asking for. How do you send them away from their own land; the land which was stolen from them? I shall always challenge anybody who says that this was not Maasai land. Whose land was it? They can mention any other ethnic group that owned that land. If there is none, the land belongs to the Maasai. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, right now, rivers of chemical wastes from factories have been channelled into Maasai grazing areas. It is a sin to do so. I ask the Minister to make sure that these rivers of chemical wastes are re-routed elsewhere. This is because they are already polluting and degrading the grazing areas of Maasai. We do not want to make a mini Ogoniland at all. We do not have a mosop(?) like the Ogoni had.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, definitely, I support this Motion on the Vote of the Ministry of Energy. It is very important. I am not repeating myself, but there can never be any industrialisation or development unless electric power is properly distributed and targeted to the high potential areas; areas where the economy can be stimulated. This is because, whether hon. Members like it or not, the economy of this country is definitely declining. Unless we involve ourselves in agricultural industry or the village industry like the Indians, we cannot expect to become a major industrial power from outer space. It can never be that way. It is always bottom-top approach. It can never be top-bottom.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few words, I beg to support.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to support this Motion. As you are aware, Kenya has targeted itself to be an industrialised nation by the year 2020. For Kenya to achieve this target, it must revitalise its power extension. To meet this demand, we must have adequate electricity in the rural areas in terms of generating it. Since we need to meet that demand, Kenya has now opted to import electricity from Uganda, Swaziland and South Africa. This importation can be avoided or supplemented by increasing, using and inventing geothermal and hydro-electricity. We need more thermal power plants in this country; more renewable energy. This can be achieved in micro-hydro, wind, solar and bio-gas power.

While becoming industrialised, this country must meet its needs for the rural folks at home. As you are

aware, since 1973 the Rural Electrification Programme has only managed to reach a population of 77,000 at an estimated cost of Kshs8.8 billion. If we went at this rate, then it would take us 400 years to reach and supply power to the rest of Kenyans in this country.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for the Government to redesign its Rural Electrification Programme so that it can allow competitive participation in electricity generation. Some of the sources include solar electricity, wind, micro-power and renewable energy. So, to attain its potential, there is an urgent need to remove institutional and regulatory barriers in this Ministry. We need policies which attract and promote renewable energy. The Government should prioritise development of locally available renewable energy to supplement the national grid.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is potential for wind energy in this country, if aggressive research is done. Wind energy is renewable, constant and can reach the rural households which cannot tap power from the national grid. We also have enough potential for hydro power. This can be adequate, based on the number of streams in this country, which we can tap and generate power for the rural areas. For example, Mzima Springs can generate power and also use the same water for domestic uses. We only have to divert that water from the main course and use it to burn a turbine to generate power, store the water in a reservoir and still reconnect it to the main pipeline to go to where it is required after a little treatment. So, we have that potential, only that Kenyans have either neglected their duties to provide energy to wananchi, or we are corrupt. We cannot do anything before being corrupted. We should exploit the potential which we have through the Mzima Springs, other water streams which we have in this country, and any other source of hydro-power generation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, hydro power contributes 70 per cent of the country's consumption. This is about 700 megawatts, whereas the total energy consumption for this country is estimated at 1,400 megawatts. This is double the existing supply. We, therefore, need to explore the possibilities of immediate development of other sources of energy. I am happy that the Government and other development partners are determined to see to it that the Sondu Marrow Power project is on course. We need to encourage other private power producers to come and play an active role. We should not allow the Kenya Power and Lighting Company to monopolise the energy sector. We should create a pool where other players can come in and tap electricity, which they can go and sell to potential customers. This monopoly does not only favour certain people, but favours the "politically-correct" zones of this country. The creation of that pool will attract investors into the country in order to participate fully in energy distribution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also have sites potential for micro-power production. These are found in the slopes of the Aberdare Mountains, Mount Kenya and the Western part of Kenya. These sites were fully exploited by the white settlers when they were here. When the Europeans left, and Kenyans could not tap this potential and manage the machinery, all of them were left unused. They have now been messed up; they cannot function, and nobody is bothered about them, and yet there is that potential.

If we have to be industrialised by 2020, there is urgent need for the Ministry of Energy to integrate renewable energy technologies into the Rural Electrification Programme through competitive bidding. This will enable them to provide electricity to rural areas, and in particular, the rural public institutions like schools, health centres and administration offices. By doing so, we will not tap from the national grid.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are purchasing power from Uganda, which is generating power from River Nile whose source is shared within the East African region, and yet we have not used the same water on the Kenyan side to generate power. We have always been told that we will use more electricity to generate less power for our local consumption. I think there is still a way we can devise, act on it and generate more power for this country so that we can also sell electricity to other countries? Why should the Kenya Government always think of buying power from other countries? Were we born by the devil while others were born by God? Are Kenyans not created in the image of God? In fact, we can do better than other countries. We must change our ways and generate power from Lake Victoria. It is only recently that Uganda created an artificial river in Jinja to generate power, and yet in Kenya, where we have a big chunk of the same lake, we cannot generate power.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of water flowing from Mzima Springs, where we can generate more than 5 megawatts of electricity. But the Government has no authority over that water simply because we have been advised by the Ministry of Tourism and Industry that if that water is tapped, animals will miss water. Are animals more important than the people of Kenya? We should tap that water and generate energy, then, later on, release it to the animals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should encourage more independent power producers to provide solar energy. We should encourage local councils to use solar energy in street lighting so that we can reduce the burden on the national grid. This has been achieved in China and other towns. We should use solar power to light stadia in our towns. Above all, we should also encourage hotels to use solar power to heat their water. As you are aware, hotel accommodation charges are very expensive because---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Your time is up!

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought I had 30 minutes!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are you the spokesman on energy for the Official Opposition party?

Mr. Mwakiringo: Yes. "Waziri wa Kivuli!"

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Proceed!

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that we should encourage our hotels to use solar energy for their water heating. This is because, as you are aware, our hotels are hurting the tourists. The tourists are not visiting Kenya simply because the hotels fear using a lot of energy when heating water, and yet they can still use solar energy. Let us give them free taxation when they are importing solar heaters so that we can use and reduce the burden on our national grid.

We should also use solar energy in our own rural areas. This is because whatever we do, our national grid cannot reach the rural areas. Solar energy is the only alternative source of energy for the rural areas. As you are aware, there are many cases of deforestation taking place because of the high cost of paraffin. We need to encourage and promote the use of alternative cooking fuel as biogas and solar cookers so that we reduce the burden of power generation, or tapping from the national grid. This will reduce cases of deforestation of our trees which reduces our country to a desert. This intervention is very important and we should have low cost cooking stoves so that the common mwananchi can afford to use paraffin or the cooking stove.

At this juncture, the Ministry should also encourage the industry to establish the Kenya Renewable Energy Association in order to intensify campaigns and outreach programmes for our rural people. This should be done in order to educate the public on the use and benefits of renewable technologies and dissemination of information backed by demonstrational projects in the Kenya Renewable Energy Centres. That would allow more Kenyans to participate in making use of renewable energy technology.

The Minister should also create an enabling environment; that is the financing and provision of generating energy so that they can send it to the national power grid. We have people who are rich enough and who can generate power and sell it to the national power grid where need arises. We have our sugar factories which produce a lot of energy. As you are aware, last time when we had power shortages, Mumias Sugar Company sold 2.5 megawatts to the national power grid. We need to encourage the sugar companies to produce more power which can be connected to the national power grid for distribution to other areas. If we have to be industrialised, that should be the course which should be taken, so that we can reduce the inflow of the learned people from the rural areas to the town centres.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Imanyara) took the Chair]*

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, our energy is very pivotal for both economic and social development. If there is lack of access to energy, services will constitute a major setback and an obstacle to sustainable development. We need to have an access to it in terms of solar system, renewable energy and whatever is being produced locally.

Those are the few remarks that I wanted to make, and I beg to support.

Mr. Angwenyi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to this very important Vote. There is no country that can spearhead development if it does not have the power and the energy to spearhead development. Our country is set to industrialise in another 19 years, assuming that, that projection is not a false projection, like we projected that we would have running water in every home and village in this country by 2000 which has gone by without us having water. This Ministry is endowed with very effective people. We have got a very energetic Minister who is driven by Tinga. We have got a very effective Permanent Secretary who is a whole Professor. With all their staff, I am sure that they are going to serve the people of Kenya effectively.

Our power problems start at the generation level. Kenya has chosen the process of generating electricity by undertaking large-scale hydro-projects, large-scale farming projects, and sometimes large-scale IPPs. I had an opportunity last month to visit various countries in the East and I discovered that, in those countries, the generation of their energy is not concentrated on large-scale projects. If you go to Australia, for example, a country which is better developed than Kenya, most of their energy is sourced from small-scale hydro and from wind energy. We were able to visit a wind power firm where they were producing 3,000 megawatts of energy from wind. Those people told us that they have carried out a survey worldwide and they know that in Kenya we can produce more wind energy than they are producing in Australia. Even if you assume that we produce as much as they produce in Australia, we would still have a surplus because our consumption is only 750 megawatts. So, if we produce 3,000 megawatts, we would have over 2,000 megawatts which we could export to other countries, instead of buying from other countries.

We were able to see small hydro-power stations out of small water falls, the type that we have on River Sondu-Marrow, River Gucha and River Challi Challi which passes through part of my constituency. I do not know where we have got this affinity and propensity to look for big projects, which must be financed externally. Why can we not go for what we can afford? Why can we not cut the dress according to the size of our cloth? Why do we have to beg? Instead of begging for Kshs13 billion so that we can construct Sondu-Marrow Power Generation Plant, why can we not invest a small amount of that; Kshs500 million, for example, and we deconstruct hydro power projects on River Nyando, River Nzoia, River Gucha and River Challi Challi?

We do have God-generated energy in this country; the geothermal energy. Why are we not investing adequately to exploit that resource which we had been given by the Gracious God? Why do we have to invest so little, so that it takes so long to exploit the resource?

The previous speaker talked about solar energy. There is solar energy; sunshine in this country, throughout the year and yet we do not source our energy as much as we should. In fact, we do not source even a fraction of what Australia sources from solar energy and yet Australia, for half of the year, does not have sunshine. We must provide energy to all Kenyans. As the previous speaker said, we have supplied energy to 77,000 Kenyans in the last 30 years at a cost of Kshs8 billion. At that cost, which is Kshs101,000 per head, if you were to give REP to every Kenyan in this country, it would cost us Kshs3 trillion. Just imagine Kshs3 trillion is needed to provide electricity to the people of this country! Ours is a distribution problem! In Australia for instance, there are four publicly-owned companies that compete in the distribution of electricity. This prevents monopolistic tendencies in the pricing of power. Why can we not have such companies in this country?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, competition ensures that services are affordable, and of good quality. The Minister should make sure that we establish other firms in this country to compete with the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC). By so doing, KPLC will be effective in providing services to our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cost of energy in this country is five times higher than the cost of energy in Egypt. This is ironical because goods from the two countries have got to compete within the COMESA market. The other day we talked to the Managing Director of Bamburi Cement Company who revealed that our products are uncompetitive because of the high cost of energy. Bamburi Cement Company pays US13 cents per unit while in Egypt the cost of power is US2.5 cents per unit. That is putting our goods out of the market! It is no wonder that Egypt is so arrogant, that it can impose duty on our tea. In fact, I am surprised that our Government has not responded to that! As a matter of fact, Egypt uses our water via a Treaty which was signed before we got Independence. This is a Treaty which we must abrogate because it is against our nation! This Treaty ensures that we do not use the waters of Lake Victoria as we wish, although this water comes from our country. Egypt uses that water as it wishes and what it produces by using that water is sold to our country cheaply, hence killing our local industries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we want to industrialise, then the money voted for power generation by the Ministry should be shared out equally among the 210 constituencies in this country. Therefore, it is important that the money voted for rural electrification is divided equally among the 210 constituencies! I know that the Mt. Kenya Forest is being cleared, and very soon we will not have enough water to generate electricity in the Seven Forks Dam. I am suggesting that the entire Development Expenditure for this Ministry, during the next financial year, should be shared out equally among all the constituencies in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must put in place practical measures to conserve our forests. Most countries do not want to deplete their forests. The forests in Mt. Kenya, Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Elgon belong to all Kenyans!

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to contribute to this debate by noting that the cost of electricity in this country is so high, both for industrial and domestic consumption.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no way Kenyan taxpayers are going to save if they are paying so much for utilities. One of the reasons why they are paying so much for utilities is because of the manner in which Energy has been developed in this country. It is top heavy! There are too many high cost projects and too many high cost loans, which have not been properly rationalised over the years. We have "woken up" too late to develop cheap sources of power. This country is well endowed with hydro-electric power because of the many rivers we have. If these projects were implemented, they could reduce the cost of energy for both industrial and domestic consumption. We also know that the geothermal energy projects in the Rift Valley Province could also add substantially to the national grid.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, power could be cheaper for consumers if the Government encouraged the generation of electricity through solar power and not leaving it entirely to the private sector. Domestic energy consumption as well as industrial energy consumption could also come down substantially if the development of solar energy was encouraged. But what is worrying is the amount of taxation that has been added to energy consumption.

Whenever I receive my bill, I calculate how much of that goes to taxation and it is worrying. We know that every Kenyan pays Value Added Tax (VAT) on all kinds of products. We should be very careful not to put a lot of VAT on essential utilities like water and electricity. If we do not have enough energy for industrial production, we are not going to have many investors attracted to Kenya as an investment destination.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are a few things that investors consider when they are making up their minds on where to invest. Key among them are the prices of energy, water and the availability of infrastructure, both physical and social. Under normal circumstances, it is the state which provides physical and social infrastructure in order to ease the pressure on the private sector. This is the state's contribution, both to the investors and its citizens.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the provision of physical and social infrastructure is going to be met by increasing taxation extensively in an economy where incomes are low, this may become counter-productive. That is one of the reasons why the Kenyan Government seems to be moving towards the privatisation of utilities and the running of social and physical infrastructure. I do not think that is the solution. It is the sole responsibility of the state, whether in developed or developing countries to provide physical and social infrastructure and to ensure that the state generates revenue through investment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue which I would like to talk about extensively, is the problem of rural electrification. I am happy to note that the Minister, in his speech, told the nation that the Government is looking at rural electrification in a new way. But some of the things that the Government should take into account are factors which have made it difficult for rural electrification to work. One of them is the following:- We know that incomes are very low in rural areas. We also know that many able-bodied income earners in the rural areas are dying very fast for reasons that the Government is very well aware of. This, therefore, is not the time to expect rural dwellers to have substantial incomes to invest in rural electrification. Rural electrification should be one of those services that are provided in the rural areas to open up avenues for economic growth. It should not be looked at as a service that rural dwellers must substantively invest in, before they get it. It is a boost factor that the State must provide, so that we can begin getting more economic activities in the rural areas.

For example, if it costs Kshs10,000 to provide an electric pole in the rural areas, and then a man who digs the hole is given only Kshs100 for his labour, there is a tremendous inverse proportion regarding how you want to increase incomes in the rural areas, by providing jobs for them to dig those holes, and the prices that they eventually pay for the services provided. I understand that the Ministry must take into account the cost of every pole that takes electric wires to the rural areas. I have seen that in my area when a mission centre called Barkorua Mission Centre was trying to get electricity from Kombewa. An amount of money was raised to get electricity within a distance of about 10 kilometres from Kombewa to Barkorua Mission Centre. Then a school named Ndirus Secondary School, which is hardly a kilometre away from there tried to get electricity from that mission centre, and the cost was extremely prohibitive.

The Government should, therefore, ensure that the guidelines and policies for rural electrification should largely be for the State to provide rural electrification first, so that it can boost economic activity. Then, it can recover that cost eventually from that economic activity. For example, if you provide electricity and people start Jua Kali enterprises, they will generate sources for Value Added Tax (VAT). That would be good for the State. They will also generate revenue which you can tax in other ways. But if you begin by telling the people to pull up their meagre resources for ten years before they have enough money for you to provide them with electricity, they will have lost ten good years of getting some income, because there will be no useful economic activity going on as a result of electrical provisions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another thing that I found counter-productive with regard to rural electrification is asking people in market places to pay money for transformers. I have heard it said that one transformer costs about Kshs250,000. When I go to my local market in Lata in Kisumu Rural and take a quick census of the incomes from every shop and ask myself whether those people could ever raise Kshs250,000 to put up a transformer--- In my calculation, they will do it in 20 years! In 20 years, it is too late! So, really, the Government should be very realistic and say: "Look, if we say we want poverty alleviation, which is abundant in rural areas, please give these people services by electrification, which will help to eradicate the poverty." But if you begin by asking them to pay for the electrification from poverty, your argument becomes counter-productive. So, I think that some of those factors, which really exist there and the Ministry knows them, should be taken into account in the Ministry's new policy, so that poverty alleviation or eradication makes sense to the ordinary mwananchi in the rural areas.

I could say the same for roads. For example, at the moment, electricity will not do us a lot of good if roads are impassable. The construction of the road from Kisumu to Yala and Busia is pathetic! We have put an Indian there to do it and he is really just fleecing this country of our resources. I would like the Government to look at those things very critically and understand that, when we pay money for services to be provided, we should get the worth of those services.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Mineral Exploration (Mr. Kalweo): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I stand to support this Vote, knowing very well that if run well, the Ministry is the backbone of this country because all the industrial development and lighting of our towns can be successful if we have sufficient energy. The Ministry has been trying to sustain itself. I am saying this knowing very well that, we do not have rivers in Kenya but streams. We call the streams rivers and knowing their geographical setting, they all run from high hills to lower areas. But they are all small streams. So, they have tried to keep pace with whatever development is taking place in this country. Do not forget that the larger the population becomes, the more the electricity that will be needed. But now, with the type of rivers that we have, we have a big question mark on how we shall cope with power requirements in the year 2010 and afterwards. With that in mind, I request the Ministry to focus on many years to come and plan on how we shall handle the situation when that time comes.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I remember that in 1990, we went to the present Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and visited a place called Matandi where power for Zambia and the whole of DRC is generated from River Congo. At that time, the Government was thinking in terms of importing power from those countries with huge permanent rivers. The other idea was to import power from Uganda. They know better what to do. I call upon the Minister to start planning and tell the House what plans he has for future expansion.

Having talked about power importation, we should now think of local streams and oceans. I think some countries in the world use electricity generated from sea water. We have the Indian Ocean. It is upon the Ministry to tell us the mechanism of doing that. They should tell us whether it can be done or not.

That is one of my suggestions.

The other one is that there are tales concerning most animals. We have a saying in Kimeru which states: "Every warthog does not borrow any other animal's tail because it has a very small one." We should be proud of our small streams and we should maintain their sources. We should construct dykes across streams, form lakes and generate power from them. For example, most rivers whose source is Tana River pass through Meru. Most rivers which flow in Meru originate from the Eastern side of Mt. Kenya. We have Mutonga, Ruguti in Chuka, Nithi, South and North Mariara, Eraro, Thingithu, Kathita, Gura and Thangatha rivers. All these rivers descend from mountains to the lower areas and they form cateracts. Some of them have a lot of water throughout the year. We can tap water near the cateracts and generate power for Bungoma, Kisumu, Nyeri and other areas from rivers Nzoia, Yala and Chania. This would reduce the problems encountered when supplying electricity to towns like Maua or Kirinyaga. Let us think of what we have and develop it.

Power cables traverse huge areas. Prof Anyang'-Nyong'o talked of transformers which are costly. It would be of great help to wananchi if the Ministry could instal transformers near small towns where there are kiosks. We should not install electricity cables in areas where we do not provide electricity because they become a "white elephant". For example, we have a cable line which runs from Maua to Mwamba Secondary School only. In between there are no activities that take place that require electricity. There is a larger town called "Athi" beyond Mwamba where we would like the provision of power to be extended to because it is the divisional headquarters and because we are putting up a tea factory in that area. Money is being wasted on installation of cables over areas where there are no activities that take place. I would urge the Minister to look into that so that he can provide electricity in areas which generate income.

I noted that the Minister has allocated about Kshs11 million for development and maintenance of electricity in Meru North District. In my constituency there is a place called Muringene-Kiegoi-Athi, which I have already expounded upon. We have put up Nthambiro Hospital with the help of wananchi and I was promised that, that area would have power supply during this financial year. I would like to urge my colleague here not to forget that, when dealing with that issue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support this Vote because this is a very important Ministry.

Mr. Karume: Ahsante sana Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda kwa kunipatia nafasi hii ili niseme machache kuhusu Hoja hii.

Ningependa kumshukuru Waziri wa Kawi, Bw. Raila, kwa sababu ninajua anaelewa mambo ya wananachi sana. Amapata taabu nyingi katika nchi hii, kwa hivyo anaelewa zaidi tunayosema. Hakuna kitu cha maana kama stima kwa sababu inatumika kwa njia nyingi. Viwanda vingi vinatumia stima lakini bei ya stima imezidi kuongezeka. Viwanda vingi vimefungwa kwa sababu haviwezi kulipa bei ya stima. Viwanda vingine vya majani ya chai na kahawa vilikuwa vikitumia stima lakini sasa vinatumia kuni kwa sababu bei ya stima imeongezeka. Inafaa Wizara ya Kawi iangalie jinsi itapunguza bei ya stima ili watu waendeleo kuitumia. Ni watu wachache hapa Kenya wanaotumia stima. Hata kuna wengine ambao walikuwa wanaotumia lakini sasa wameacha kufanya hivyo kwa sababu bei ya stima imeongezeka na hawawezi kulipa hata kidogo. Tungependa wananchi wote katika nchi hii, wawe na uwezo au la, wapate kutumia stima na maji lakini bei ya stima inazidi kuongezeka. Ningependa kumwomba Waziri atafute njia za kupunguza bei ya stima. Ni afadhali stima itumiwe na watu wengi katika nchi hii kuliko kutumiwa na watu wachache

wanaoweza kulipa.

Mradi wa kuweka stima mashambani umewasaidia wananchi kupata stima. Katika mawakilisho yangu ya Kiambaa, ninajua vikundi vingi vinavyochanga pesa, na wengi wa wanachama wake wamelipa asilimia 10 wanayotakikana kulipa ili mafundi waweze kukisia gharama ya kuwapa stima. Baadaye wanaandikiwa barua na kuambiwa kuwa inafaa walipe Kshs10 million ili wapate stima. Wananchi watatoa wapi Kshs10 million na huku hii kampuni ya stima imewatoza wananchi pesa nyingi sana?

Ningetaka Waziri afikirie juu ya jambo hili kwa sababu watu wengi wanauza kuku, mbuzi na wengine wamekopa pesa kutoka benki ili kulipa asilimia 10 ya pesa hizi. Wale waliokopa pesa kutoka mabenki wanalipa riba na huku kampuni ya stima haiwalipi wananchi riba hata ikikaa na pesa zao kwa miaka kumi. Ni vibaya sana kuweka pesa za wananchi kwenye kampuni kubwa na tajiri kama hii ya stima. Kampuni hii huchukua asilima kumi ya gharama ya kuweka stima kisha baadaye huwaambia kuwa haiwezi kuwapa stima mpaka walipe asilimia 90 iliyobakia. Utapata kuwa wananchi hawapati riba kutoka kwa asilimia kumi na huku kampuni hii inafanya biashara ikitumia pesa hizo na kupata faida.

Ningemwomba Bw. Waziri ayafikirie masilahi ya wananchi kwa sababu kampuni hii inatumia pesa za wananchi bila ya kuwalipa riba. Utapata kuwa hata watu waliolipa asilimia kumi ya pesa hizo hawajapewa stima. Kwa hivyo, ningependa kumwomba Bw. Waziri afikirie juu ya jambo hili. Stima inaweza kufanya watu kujitegemea kikazi. Kama stima iko, miti na maji, mtu anaweza kuwa na kiwanda kidogo. Hata kama kiwanda hicho ni cha mama na mzee, wataajiri watoto wao kwa sababu mnajua kwamba kupata kazi katika Kenya ya sasa sio rahisi. Lakini watu wakiwa na stima, watatengeneza viwanda vidogo, wajajiri kazi na pengine, waajiri watu wengine wawili au watatu. Kwa hivyo, ni vizuri tufikirie vile tutaleta wananchi stima na zaidi, kupunguza bei yake.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kule kwangu Kiambaa ninajua tuko na mipango miwili. Mmoja uko Waguthu na ule mwingine Ting'ang'a. Hapo vikingi vya stima vililekwa na hata waya ikawekwa zaidi ya miaka kumi iliyopita na huo ulikuwa ni mpango wa kuleta stima mashambani. Baadaye watu waliambiwa kwa vile wamelipa asilimia 10, wataletewa stima. Lakini hata sasa, jambo hilo halijafikiwa, na kwa hivyo nauliza Bwana Waziri akirudi ofisi, aulize ni kitu gani kilifanyika. Hiyo ni hasara kwa Kenya Power and Lighting company kwa sababu wameweka vikingi na waya, lakini watu hawana stima. Mradi mwingine ulikuwa wa kupatia wananchi karibu 10,000 maji ambao ulikuwa unaitwa Ting'ang'a Water Project. Kwa hivyo, ni vizuri kufikiria kitu kama hicho. Ningetaka Wizara iangalie vile inaweza kuwafanyia hao wananchi.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nilikuwa nataka kusema kwamba stima ifikiriwe zaidi. Hii ni kwa sababu hata tukisema au kufanya namna gani, kama bei ya stima haitawekwa chini, sijui wananchi watafanya nini. Watu wengi wanajua vile nasema ni ukweli. Ni ukweli kabisa kwa sababu watu wengi matajiri wanashindwa kulipa stima. Kwa hivyo, ni vizuri kufikiria ni mpango gani Wizara na Serikali zitafanya, ili bei ya stima iwe chini kidogo na pengine tuweze kuendelea. Siku hizi hata DDC inapitisha kwamba sehemu nyingi sana ziwewe stima lakini hata ikifanya hivyo, hakuna stima kwenye eneo mbali mbali. Sasa hakuna miradi ya kuleta stima mashambani. Sijui hiyo miradi ilienda wapi! Sijui jinsi mambo yanavyofanywa. Kwa hivyo, tunauliza Bw. Waziri aende afikirie mambo haya na zaidi, yale ambayo nilisema hapo mbeleni ya wale watu ambao wameweka pesa huko, walipwe riba! Hii ni kwa sababu Serikali ndio inatakiwa isaidie wananchi na kampuni kama Kenya Power and Lighting Company ndiyo inaweza kusaidia wananchi lakini sio eti wananchi ndio wawe wanasaidia kuiweka stima. Mimi najua kuna watu wengine ambao walilipa pesa kama zile nilitaja zaidi ya miaka kumi iliyopita na bado zinalala huko na hawana stima wala pesa. Wakienda kule wanaambiwa mambo ya miradi ya kuleta stima mashambani hakuna.

Kwa hivyo, mimi nilitaka tu kuunga mkono na kusema hayo mambo yaangaliwe zaidi na bei ya stima iwe chini. Pia mambo ya miradi ya kuleta stima mashambani yaangaliwe kwa sababu sasa hakuna stima. Mimi najua huo mpango umekwama kabisa kwa sababu nimeongea na hao watu na wote wanasema hawana mradi wa kuleta stima mashambani na wanalalia pesa zetu.

Kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono.

Mr. Kanyauchi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Motion. I wish to state that, perhaps, the amount of money which the Ministry of Energy is seeking is slightly more than what I thought should have been sought. The reason for saying this is that electricity is such a basic infrastructure. It is so basic that it is like provision of water and roads. When we are dealing with such a basic infrastructure, first of all it is important to give the Ministry concerned as much money as possible, to deal with the shortfall of electricity which we are having at the moment in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for years, we have been told that we should be an industrialised country by the year 2020. However, we can see that this is going to be a wide and big pipe dream because without electricity, our dream of being industrialised by the year 2020 or even by the year 2050 will not materialise. Why do I say so? Every industry anywhere in the world needs electricity. Even very basic industries like the hotel industry, one of the most important things which you must provide for a basic hotel is steady and constant supply of electricity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we saw a situation about a year ago, where electricity supply was very intermittent in this country and it was such a shame. It was quite a drawback to the economy of this country because there is no tourist who is going to come here from Europe or elsewhere and stay in a hotel where the supply of electricity is intermittent. So, I am trying to say that for us to be serious with industrialisation of any nature, we must ensure that the whole country is well and adequately supplied with electricity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the area I come from has a lot of potential in terms of tourism. My constituency which is Gwasi in Suba District, is one of the most scenic areas in this country. One of the reasons why we have not attracted tourists to that place is that we do not have any electricity in the whole district. If you went to Switzerland and toured the whole of Lake Geneva, you would be so impressed with the supply of electricity around the lake. It makes the lake so scenic and beautiful even just to look at as a tourist or any other person and this is what we have been saying. Why do we not supply electricity around the whole of the Lake region which will jumpstart tourism to a very large extent?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a big shame that a district as big as Suba District does not have like one of my colleagues put it, that is hon. Kajwang, who is my neighbour, even one metre of electricity wiring. I can even say that it does not have even one bulb supplied with electricity. This is a big shame, 38 years after Independence.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, turning to the fishing industry, it is one of the major industries which is going to boost the economy of this country, if it is properly looked at. However, fish need a lot of care because once the catch is out of the lake, it either has to be consumed immediately or it must be preserved. For preservation, one needs coolers and for coolers, one needs electricity. Within hours, if you do not preserve your fish properly, it will go to waste and that is money wasted. One of the biggest problems we have in the lake region, particularly in Gwasi Constituency and also in our neighbouring districts, is lack of electricity to preserve our fish. I wish to urge the Ministry of Energy to ensure that electricity is supplied around the lake region, so that we can boost the fishing industry. For a long time, we have been chasing money for provision of electricity in Suba District and one time, the Minister said: "Well, we are looking for money from Spain". They then changed the story and said: "We are looking for money from Italy". That is now four years ago since I came to Parliament. We are soon going back to elections and probably, it is just going to be the same stories. This is a big shame. So, I urge the Ministry to ensure that electricity is supplied to Suba District. To address all these problems, perhaps the Ministry should decentralise power supply by having small sections producing electricity for use in particular areas. This policy of supplying the country with electricity from the national grid has failed. Thirty-eight years after Independence, the policy has not succeeded. So, it is not going to work.

The call for change of this policy ties in well with our clamour for *majimboism*. If we had, for example, the Nyanza *jinbo*, Suba District would have adequate electricity. However, because everything is centralised, with only Nairobi in mind, the provision of basic services such as electricity supply to other parts of the country becomes a pipe dream. Also, perhaps the Ministry should allow for the privatisation of electricity supply. This has worked in many places, including Europe. So, this is one possibility the Ministry should look into.

If the Rural Electrification Programme could be implemented in my constituency, we would jump-start small-scale industries and the Jua Kali sector. So, many people would be engaged in that sector rather having to come to Nairobi to look for jobs. Lack of electricity in the rural areas is one of the factors that have contributed to over-population in urban areas; basic facilities are not available in rural areas. So, I urge the Ministry to supply electricity to Magunga Township, which is my divisional headquarters, as well as to all other centres around the lake.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr. Ochuodho: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity to contribute.

I will start with the views shared by my colleagues that electricity is very expensive in this country. Why is electricity so expensive in this country? Is it because the costs of its generation, transmission and distribution are not efficient? I appreciate that the Government has tried to liberalise power generation. However, I think it is important that its distribution and transmission is also liberalised. I believe that this will bring about efficiency. I am tempted to think that, through very poor and archaic methods of power transmission, we are losing as much as 30 per cent of the power that we should be consuming. Kenyans are being made to pay for that inefficiency. In this regard, I would like to call upon the Ministry to also consider liberalising power distribution and transmission.

I remember that, at one point in time, the Committee on Energy, Communications and Public Works was told that, at some stage, there was an attempt to liberalise that aspect but there were no interested bidders. I find that difficult to believe. If there are people who do not want to invest in Kenya, there must be other reasons but, certainly, not because transmission and distribution of electricity cannot be profitable. So, I support this Motion, but I would like to call upon the Minister to consider liberalising the aspect of distribution and transmission as one way of bringing down the cost of electricity to consumers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speakers, Sir, I want to look at the aspect of power generation. Recently, some

Members of the Committee on Energy, Communications and Public Works visited many parts of the world, among them Australia. While in that country, we visited a windmill. We were very delighted to learn that, for as little as US\$1 million or slightly under Kshs40 million, the country had a windmill, which generates 50 megawatts of electricity. If you compare that with the about Kshs3 billion that we intend to sink into the Turkwel George Hydro-electric power project vis-a-vis the amount of energy we are going to generate from it, it becomes very difficult to justify the implementation of that project.

It is in this regard that I call upon the Ministry to seriously explore into alternative sources of energy. In my view, windmill would be the best source of energy for Kenya this century. This may be the better medium-term as well as long-term option for this country. One may wonder whether this method would ever give us enough energy. In Australia, we learnt that from one windmill alone, they produce more than 1,000 megawatts of electricity. That in itself should be much more than our energy consumption. So, it is in that regard that I want to call upon the Ministry to consider giving wind energy top priority in future. That is one way of bringing down the cost of electricity production.

There is already a map showing areas with potential for wind energy production. We visited the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). They have wind maps for Kenya. We were told that, for as little as Kshs20 million, the windmills can be resited with an accuracy of at least 100 metres. What I am saying is that they can tell you within a scale of 100 meters, where you will get the power if you instal a wind-operated generator. So, considering the small amounts of money that we are talking about, which are required for the generation of wind energy, and given the many parts of this country where wind can be tapped, I think the Ministry should, as a matter of priority, consider wind pumps, so that Kenyans can benefit from this form of energy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also encourage the Ministry to consider putting up mini-hydro-electric projects. While in Australia, we had the opportunity of visiting such a project. We were told that the energy generated from such mini-projects was even much cheaper than that produced from the windmills I have talked about. Mini-hydro-electric plants can literally be put up on almost every stream joining a river in this country. In my view, this must be considered rather than spending billions of shillings on projects which turn out to be white elephants. We should consider putting up mini-hydro-electric projects. These may be an answer to my colleague, who has been talking about *majimboism*. Suba District has rivers which can provide them with electricity. If we had mini-hydro-electric plants on those rivers, they would probably have electricity without necessarily embracing *majimboism*.

I would now like to turn to the issue of rural electrification. As of now, this programme is under what I would call "kangaroo" management. It is as if an individual decides at his whims how funds for the programme should be allocated. This has been going on for more than ten years. That is an affair. Previously, electricity was used for political expediency. During the campaign for the Kipipiri by-election, for example, electricity posts were ferried to that area only for them to be withdrawn when KANU failed to win. When the co-operation between KANU and the National Development Party (NDP) started, electricity posts were ferried to Homa Bay with a view to taking electricity to Mbita. However, three months later, the posts were removed.

It is not right for the Government to use the Rural Electrification Programme for political expediency. I concur with my colleagues who have suggested that equal amounts of the Rural Electrification Programme money should be disbursed to every part of the country. I realise that the Ministry is disbursing the money on a district basis. I think it would be much fairer to distribute that money on a constituency basis. There are some one-constituency districts, which were created for political reasons. So, to be fair to everyone, I think we should use the constituency as the basis for distributing the Rural Electrification Programme money.

I would like to propose that the Ministry considers creating "Kenya Energy Agency", along the lines on which the Kenya Roads Board, which will manage such funds to ensure that every corner of the country gets some electricity. It is in this regard that I decry the absence of electricity in many towns of South Nyanza. Some of these have been enumerated by the previous speaker. Mbita, Magunga, Ndhiwa and Kendu Bay are some of the major towns in that area which do not have electricity despite the fact that they merit having electricity.

It is interesting to note that the Ministry allocates every district Kshs11 million for rural electrification in the current financial year. Suba District has been allocated Kshs11 million for operations and maintenance when we know that the district does not have any electricity. What is this money going to maintain? Secondly, why has Suba District been allocated less money than the rest of the districts? In my view, Suba District should have been allocated more money than other district because it has never benefited from this kitty because of there being no electricity. I want to call upon the Minister to provide this district with electricity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to turn my attention to the issue of petroleum products prices. At one stage, my neighbour, Mr. Ojode, had a Bill that was going to regulate petroleum products prices. He probably was rewarded by a Cabinet appointment. But it would be important for the Ministry to regulate petroleum products prices rather than for it to wait for somebody else to bring a Bill to regulate petroleum products prices. We are not calling for control, but for regulation of those prices. If you go to petroleum products companies, you will find that

they are saying that the problem is high taxation, and, to some extent, I agree with them. I think our taxation levels on petroleum products are very high, much higher than in many other parts of the world that I am familiar with. So, I would want to call upon the Government to review the taxation system. This is important because petroleum products companies are operating like a cartel and exploiting the consumer.

Secondly, I want also to draw the attention of the Minister to my concerns about the proposed Eldoret-Kampala pipeline. This matter has been in this House. It was here last year and it came up again earlier this year. Last year, the Minister, in answering a Question, told us that the Ministry was considering spending about Kshs6 billion to construct the pipeline from Eldoret to Kampala. The same could be done from Kisumu for about half the cost if it is done on land. But if it is done under water, it would cost as little as Kshs2 billion. Why are we originating this pipeline from Eldoret and not from Kisumu? One would need to justify why we need to spend an extra Kshs4 billion from the Exchequer that we would save and use on other things. We should have the pipeline originating from Kisumu. This is because already the existing pipeline terminates in Kisumu. So, in my view there will be nothing to lose by extending that Kisumu-Kampala pipeline from Kisumu, either under water or on land. We would save, at the very least, Kshs2 billion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, also as I sit down, I would want to appeal to the Minister to clarify to the House and the country this issue of Sudan "blood" oil when responding. At one stage, I sought a Ministerial Statement asking how much oil has been brought in and by whom ever since the Ministry offered to import oil from Sudan. There are Kenyans who believe that "blood" oil will produce the money that KANU intends to use in rigging the forthcoming elections. I want to appeal to the Minister to clarify that issue when replying to this debate with regard to the Sudan oil, especially in view of the conflict between the three Ministers who have talked about the Sudan oil.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Mr. Kariuki: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

First and foremost, I would like to say that this Ministry is lucky to have a very able Minister, although this is not proven. He has started very well and has a very well-endowed Permanent Secretary. I think they have the manpower to man that Ministry very effectively. We hope that they will be fair and just in discharging their responsibilities so that every Kenyan will share in the benefits that accrue from that Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are a few issues that I would like to highlight. First is the issue of petroleum products. There are major multi-nationals that are trading in this country that have exploited it without letting Kenyans benefit from their participation in our trade. These are companies such as M/s Kenya Shell, Caltex, Mobil and others. The Government should have a policy on these companies so that they can share their wealth with us by way of selling some of their shares to Kenyans so that Kenyans can benefit from the profits that accrue from these companies. These companies should part with, at least, 20 per cent of their shares through the Nairobi Stock Exchange so that every Kenyan is given an opportunity to own shares in those companies.

Currently, these companies are exploiting this country by repatriating all the profits that they make. They are not of very good use to this country, if at all they will only make Kenyans consumers of their products without sharing with them the wealth that they make in this country. It is, therefore, important for the Government to have a policy on them so that they do not just trade freely without meeting certain requirements. One of the best requirements should, therefore, be to require them to share with Kenyans their wealth.

The other aspect is also to require the same companies not to be the ones running small businesses, but to ensure that distribution of petroleum products is done by indigenous people. Petrol stations should also be owned by Kenyans and this will help Kenyans to share in the wealth of those companies. Those companies should merely have depots in Mombasa and Nairobi only; all the other responsibilities should be handled by Kenyans. This is very important because we are talking about poverty eradication and that is one of the ways in which we could eradicate it in the country.

We are worried about the pricing of the petroleum products. Although there is liberalisation, I think there is a cartel among the major oil distributors. The Ministry should put into effect a mechanism for ensuring that there is reasonable pricing of oil products. I do not see why the small operators who are upcoming in the market---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): You have to wind up, Mr. Kariuki!

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to support this Motion. If you could give me one minute to just sum up, I would be happy.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): It is the Mover's time now. So, if he wants to give you one minute, it is fine with me.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Mover could give me one minute, I could sum up my contribution.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Mr. Raila, are you giving Mr. Kariuki a minute to

conclude his contribution?

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Raila): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will give him one minute and Mr. Ndicho also one minute only.

Mr. Kariuki: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. My humble request to this Ministry is just one. There is power generation being done in certain areas, Kiharu Constituency included, whereby there are three power stations at Tana, Wanjie and Methiko. I am appealing to the Minister to ensure that there is a social responsibility by KenGen and the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), by ensuring that in areas where power is generated, at least, a percentage of the income derived from those power stations is shared by the local people. If only a small percentage of this income is ploughed back by way of funding construction of schools, roads or any other social amenities they can fund, and also distributing power in those areas, the local people within those areas would highly welcome it. This should apply to other power installations such as Turkwel Gorge, Olkaria, Kipevu and others. That is the only humble request I would like to make in my contribution.

With those few remarks, I totally support this Motion.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank the Minister for giving me one minute. He has been my darling for many years. I would like to take this opportunity to ask him to do this country just one favour. I have many points, but I will raise only one issue and it is the issue of the environment.

When Mr. Njonjo came to Thika about two weeks ago, we raised the issue of depletion of forests. I told Mr. Njonjo that one of the reasons why this country has lost its forests is because of the Ministry of Energy. The Ministry uses trees from the forests for its poles for transmission of power from one point to another, and because demand for power is so high, our forests are now being depleted. I want to ask the Minister to join hands with the rest of the people who are fighting for the restoration of our forests and other conservatists to ensure that there is a stoppage in the cutting down of trees for poles.

I would like to take the Minister back to the colonial days. If you look at the whole of Nairobi, you will see that all the electricity poles are either concrete or metallic, including the poles from Uganda, Kamburu or the Seven Forks Dam. I am pleading with the Minister to do this country a favour by going back to the usage of either concrete or metallic poles so that our forests will be saved.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Raila): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving this opportunity to reply.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to begin by thanking all hon. Members who contributed by the debate on the Vote of my Ministry. I recognise the contribution of Messrs. Muite, Kihoro, Nyenze, Dr. Kituyi, Dr. Anangwe, Mrs. Mugo, Messrs. Keah, P.K. Mwangi, Kajwang, Mboko, Affey, Kibicho, Eng. Manga, Messrs. Omingo, ole Ntimama, Mwakiringo, Angwenyi, Prof. Anyang-Nyong'o, Messrs. Kalweo, Karume, Dr. Ochuodho, Mr. Kariuki and lastly, my friend, Mr. Ndicho.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, debate on the Votes of various Ministries gives the Government an opportunity to present policy issues to this House and also an opportunity to hon. Members to discuss issues that they are involved in. Parliament does this as one of its constitutional functions on legislation and oversight. I have sat in this House for the last two days, when debate on the Vote of my Ministry was going on. I listened very carefully to each and every Member who contributed to this Vote. I would want to say that every hon. Member who spoke here did raise issues which are very important to my Ministry. I will not deal with each issue raised by every hon. Member because, some of the points were repetitive. But the hon. Members were not just repeating the points, but they were emphasizing very crucial policy issues.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to begin by saying that yes, my Ministry's Developmental Vote is much smaller this year than last year's by about 40 per cent. This is because during the last financial year, my Ministry got a substantial amount of money from the World Bank for emergency power supply to enable us to deal with drought which we experienced for two consecutive years. I am happy to report here that, because of the very good rains that we have received, this particular assistance was stopped and now we are back to the normal generation in all our hydro-plants.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, every hon. Member who spoke here mentioned the issue of rural electrification. Indeed, most of the questions that my Ministry receives from hon. Members here have to do with rural electrification. I know that this is an issue which is very dear to hon. Members and that is the reason why I am happy that hon. Members who have spoken here have supported the proposal by my Ministry to create an independent agency to deal with rural electrification. As I said when I was moving this Vote, we do consider rural electrification as an infrastructure. But if we take it to the rural areas, we will be able to trigger off certain activities there. Processing industries and *Jua Kali* workshops can be set up in various centres in the rural areas to enable our people to be self-supporting. This is one way we can deal with poverty eradication.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with hon. Members that this has been done in a very haphazard manner in the past. There was no systematic method in doing it and there was no clear criteria that was used. This has resulted in a disparity in terms of allocation of meagre resources that we have. That is the reason why we have come up with a criteria that would ensure that no particular area suffers unfairly. The details of this resource allocation are going to be worked out later.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want hon. Members to bear with us. Hon. Members have raised the issue of budgetary allocations on the basis of districts. We have found out that this has been the system that has been used. Maybe later on, we will discuss certain policies with hon. Members to see whether we may agree to move to the constituencies. But, at the moment, because of the anomaly that exists, most of the rural electrification funds do not really reach the targets because the cost of operation and maintenance is too high. But, even if you see a budgetary allocation in the Development Estimates, for every district, most of that just goes to operate and maintain the already existing systems and, therefore, very little is left for expansion of the network. This is something that we intend to reverse. How do we intend to reverse this? As I have said, if we set up an agency, we can go to the Treasury and apply for allocation of funds directly. We can then negotiate directly with donor agencies for cheaper lines of credit to be able to provide this service.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Kenya Power and Lighting Company has been charging the consumer 10 per cent contribution for rural electrification programmes, as part of their commercial policy. The main purpose of these charges is to ensure that once the expenses have been incurred on the detailed designs, applicants do not decline to pay for connections without meeting such expenses. But we have taken a decision that the KPLC should not take deposits from consumers unless they are in a position and ready to provide the services. This is something that should not happen in future.

The other point that was raised by hon. Members was the question of spreading the network so that when a consumer has applied for rural electrification, it is unfair for the line to pass so many other people just to go to one particular centre. This should be spread regardless, whether electricity is going to a coffee factory or to an individual. I do agree that, indeed, it is the policy of the Government that institutions like market centres, hospitals and schools get priority. We are going to ensure that there is no discrimination in the supply of electricity in future.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members would also agree with us that we have a problem that is very peculiar to our own country. For example, the Government of Ghana has rural electrification spread to the extent of about 40 per cent. But in Ghana, more and more people live in villages, similar to the ujamaa villages in Tanzania. Our people are so individualistic that they live in scattered homes. When you take power to somebody's home, from there to another person's home is another half a kilometre, which needs extra poles, cables and even extra transformers. So, it becomes very expensive to provide electricity in rural areas, especially in a situation where people live the way they live in our rural countryside. I wanted to bring this point to the attention of hon. Members.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on electrifying district headquarters, it is a policy of the Government to ensure that every district headquarters is supplied with electricity. We know that there are some district headquarters which are still not covered. But I am happy to report here that this year, high voltage distribution lines have been extended to Kuria, Teso and Nyando Districts, and work is currently in progress for the low voltage reticulation.

Mr. Kajwang spoke very passionately in this House about Suba District. His fellow hon. Member from Suba District, Mr. Kanyauchi, has echoed the same sentiments. I know that what they were saying is true; that there is not a single metre of cable in Suba District. But I would like to assure the hon. Members that before the end of this financial year, work will have started.

(Applause)

I would like to inform this House that the contractor has been contracted to complete that work within the next 20 months. Currently, the surveyors are in Suba District, maybe, to the delight of the two hon. Members, and work will start very soon. Tharaka and Rachuonyo District Headquarters will also be connected within the next 24 months.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Manyara) left the Chair]*

[Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have complained about high electricity tariffs. Just for their information, I would like to say that by last month, the billing rate in our country stood at Kshs7.59 per kilowatt hour.

This is equivalent to US9.5 cents per kilowatt hour. This tariff level has come down very sharply from US13.3 cents in the months of March and May, this year, due to the reception of fair rainfall which has led to normal generation of electricity in our hydro-power plants. But we do recognise that our tariffs are still comparatively higher than they are in other COMESA countries such as Egypt, Zambia and Zimbabwe. While this does not auger very well for our industries, efforts are being made to reduce our tariffs in the medium-term. But it should also be acknowledged that because of our limited natural resources, it will not be possible in the long-term, to come down to the levels of these other countries. Egypt and South Africa subsidise their electricity, which we cannot do in this country because we run the risk of running into problems with some of our donors.

Geothermal energy is one of our cheapest sources of energy that we have in this country. This country is well-endowed with geothermal energy. At the moment, the proven potential stands at 2,000 megawatts. With more exploration, it is estimated that it would be much higher than this. Kenya is only second to New Zealand in terms of geothermal energy. We want to create more incentives in order for people to invest in this particular area by narrowing the risks and providing funds so that this can be done. We are looking at how we can revise our policy to come up with institutions that will help us with exploration of geothermal energy.

I was asked whether there is oil in Kenya. Some hon. Members said that we have been exploring for oil for the last 54 years in this country. I would like to inform the hon. Members that, in fact, it is longer. The first time that we began to explore oil was in 1934. So, we have been exploring oil for a very long time.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Members here that the exploration work which has been undertaken so far indicates that over half of our country's area, which is 360,000 square kilometres, has a potential for the occurrence of oil and gas. However, only 30 wells have been drilled in these sedimentary basins. It has not been possible to adequately assess this potential. I would like to assure the hon. Members that other countries which have oil now also explored oil for a very long time. Nigeria took 54 years, while Saudi Arabia took 130 years before they struck oil. So, there is no cause for us to become desperate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to satisfactorily explore oil in our country, we have to drill not less than 720 wells in these basins at an estimated cost of US\$4 million per well. Indeed, this is a colossal sum of money by any standards and, therefore, explains why we have been unable to do much in this aspect. However, my Ministry is promoting and seeking international community participation in the exploration and exploitation in the event of any commercial discovery of oil and gas. Offshore, to the south of Tanzania, in Songo Songo, gas has been discovered. There are very good prospects of discovering oil and gas around Kisimayu. So, I do not believe that nature could have been so unkind to us as to leave Kenya isolated. There are also very good prospects in our border with Sudan. As a country, we have to invest to narrow the risks, because oil exploration is expensive. Amoco spent US\$70 million without finding anything, while Total spent US\$50 million. So, as a country, we are trying to source for funds to be able to narrow the risks so that we can get more people coming to invest in oil exploration.

Mr. Affey talked about dumping of toxic waste in North Eastern Province. My Ministry has organised an inter-ministerial committee to investigate the matter and the analysis is in progress, and will be made public as soon as it is ready. But I have assured the hon. Member that I am ready and we will make arrangements to travel jointly with the hon. Members to those sites so that we can do an on sight inspection with them.

Let me now turn to the so-called blood oil from Sudan. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation issued a Ministerial Statement in this House on 1st August, 2001 regarding this issue. The Government liberalised the oil sector in October, 1994, and as a result oil companies are free to import their market requirements from any source. Let it also be noted here for record purpose that Sudan is a member of COMESA, and that this country has huge trade with Sudan, which stands at 1:6 in favour of Kenya. We export building materials, tea and other products to Sudan, and only import sugar from that country. I do not know why we do not call it "blood sugar".

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we, as a Ministry, do not import oil. If and when the issue arises and a decision is taken for an embargo against Sudan, Kenya will happily implement it. But at the moment, there are no international sanctions on importation of goods from Sudan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on pricing of petroleum products, again, because of the liberalisation, the Government moved away from controls and setting up of prices. Oil companies trading in this country usually know the price of the previous month's crude oil within the first three working days of the following month. Hence, it is not possible to reflect cost immediately. However, it is true that when crude oil prices rise, companies have been fast in effecting price increases but slow in reducing the same when prices fall. We have raised this issue with the oil companies and we have told them that the Government does not intend to go back to the controls. But that is a very strong and powerful lobby in the House. We have also told them that if they do not toe the line, the Government will have no alternative when the time comes and Members decide to act otherwise. The oil industry is on notice. In liberalising, the Government wanted the market forces to determine allocation of resources in this particular sector based on the rule of supply and demand. But that does not operate when a few companies decide to operate as a cartel

where they keep off other people from competition. Now, as a result of this, there is no competition and therefore, market forces are not in operation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on dumping of adulterated fuel, the Government is taking action. There have been quite a number of prosecutions. There has been a reduction in adulteration as a result of stern actions that have been taken. Several cases have been satisfactorily dealt with in courts and some other cases are pending. My Ministry is working very closely with the Government agencies; including the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and Kenya Bureau of Standards (KBS).

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the renewable energy, Members need to know that our proven hydro-electric potential, if we were to tap all mega-potential, is 1,550 megawatts. There is an additional potential of 1,500 megawatts in the small and micro---. Prof. Anyang-Nyong'o was speaking as if this resource is inexhaustible. It is not inexhaustible. We have done explorations and quantified it. We know what we have and the Government is making all the arrangements to exploit what is there. On solar energy, likewise, we do have a potential of four to six kilowatt hour per square metre per day of solar energy, which is used for synthetic conversion. We are trying to make use of this solar energy. We have reduced duty. We removed to some extent duty on solar equipment, but we are unhappy that this is not being passed down to the consumer so that the cost of solar energy has still remained very high. We want this to come down.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on wind energy, my Ministry is working in conjunction with the Meteorological Department to develop a national wind energy atlas. We have established that there are areas with very great potential for wind energy. At Marsabit, we know that we can generate about 400 megawatts of wind energy. There is already one wind generator operating in Ngong Hills. When this is complete, we will invite investors to invest in that area.

On water catchment areas, we must do everything possible to conserve our catchment areas. My Ministry is working in conjunction with other Ministries to make sure that our catchment areas are protected

Finally, my Ministry is in the process of developing a national energy policy. In the past, energy policies have only been contained in development plans. There have never been a comprehensive national energy policy. As we know, the Government has made a categorical policy statement that it wants this country to be industrialized by the year 2020. What are the policy implications in as far as energy is concerned? There can be no industrialization without energy. We are determined to develop an energy policy that will work in tandem with this declared policy of industrialization.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are going to host a national energy conference at which we will invite major stakeholders including Members of Parliament, the private sector, Government departments, research institutions and donor agencies to collectively discuss policy issues, look at our other alternatives that are available to us, for example, for generation, hydrocarbon, thermal, geothermal, wind, solar, hydro and even nuclear energy. I have said in the past that we do not need to be scared of talking about nuclear energy. As Mr. Nyenze said, when he was contributing, this is still one of the cheapest sources of energy. We want to discuss it exhaustively so that we can agree or disagree about its use.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dr. Ochuodho talked about liberalizing transmission and distribution. Those are some of the issues that will be discussed at that time, whether we should liberalise and delink transmission from generation and distribution if that will make it more efficient and help us reduce the losses.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]
IN THE COMMITTEE

*[The Temporary Deputy Chairman
(Mr. Imanyara) took the Chair]*

Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Raila): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:-
THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs354,977,705 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2002 in respect of:-

Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy

(Question proposed)

VOTE R30 - RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Imanyara): For your benefit, we are using the yellow books and not the green ones.

SUB-VOTE 300 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Mr. Murathe: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. What are the yellow and green books?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Imanyara): What do you propose to do about that?

Mr. Murathe: I thought that some of us would get some time to consult.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Imanyara): We will continue to hear from those who are ready.

(Mr. Murathe withdrew from the Chamber)

(Heads 428 and 429 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 300 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 301 - RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

(Heads 430 and 433 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 301 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 302 - ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT

(Heads 435 and 436 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 302 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 303 - PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND SUBSTITUTION

(Head 427 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 303 agreed to)

(Vote R30 agreed to)

VOTE D30 - DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 300 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

(Heads 428 and 429 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 300 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 301 - RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

(Heads 430 and 433 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 301 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 302 - ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT

(Heads 435, 436 and 444 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 302 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 303 - PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND SUBSTITUTION

(Heads 426 and 427 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 303 agreed to)

(Vote D30 agreed to)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Resolution to be reported without amendment)

(The House resumed)

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

REPORT

VOTE 30 - Ministry of Energy

Mr. Imanyara: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Resolution that a sum not exceeding Kshs354,977,707 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2002 in respect of Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy, and has approved the same without amendment.

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Raila): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Manga) seconded.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until Thursday, 11th October, 2001 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 5.40 p.m.